

# THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL Counsellor



PUBLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS IN THE INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

January, 1967



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA



PROVINCE-WIDE

### BRANCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

#### DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE:

New legislation granting broader powers to all classes of municipalities has been proposed for 1967, which is a tangible reflection of the maturity of our municipal administration in Alberta. Each passing year sees more trained and better informed officials, both elected and appointed, ready and willing to work in government at the municipal level. This augurs well for the future and gives immediate promise in the municipal field.



With established communities showing new strength and vigour in their municipal administrations, staff members of the Department of Municipal Affairs have recently been able to look more to extending their helping hands to our developing North.

In co-operation with the Northern Development Council, members of the Department have been pleased to spend a great deal of time and effort in assisting the developing communities north of the 55th parallel in 1966. You will see the tenor of this work as you read the reports of the various Branches which follow.

Alberta's first ventures in Public Housing and Urban Renewal were begun in 1966. The Homeowner's Tax Discount was (To Page 2)

### TWO MEETINGS EXAMINE MUNICIPAL ACT PROPOSALS

#### PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE EXPLAINED

Discussion of the proposals for consolidating the Municipal Acts took place in Edmonton at two meetings in early January. Following the meetings, the Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs said he hoped to see the new Municipal Act introduced for first reading early in the legislative session called for February 9, and then distributed for study by municipalities before second reading.

#### Rural Association Convention - January 12

The first discussion took place in the MacDonald Hotel on January 12th. The occasion was a special convention of the Association of Municipal Districts and Counties. The meeting was held in compliance with a resolution passed at the Association's annual convention in November.

The 127 delegates had studied the published recommendations of the Committee proposing a consolidation of the Municipal Acts. In the MacDonald Hotel, they considered each recommendation in turn. The Hon. A. J. Hooke, Deputy Minister A. W. Morrison and members of the Committee revising the Municipal Acts, Mr. Stan Ross, Q.C. and Mr. William Isbister, were in attendance and explained each proposal in answer to questions from delegates.

The election of a reeve at large and a Municipal Appeal Tribunal were two matters on which Mr. Hooke, Mr. Ross and Mr. Isbister were called to answer a great many questions from delegates.

#### Electing a Reeve

A number of delegates spoke to support a change for the election of a reeve at large but the greater number favoured retaining the present arrangement of councillors selecting a reeve from among their number. After hearing the discussion and taking part in their debate, Mr. Hooke told the meeting he could suggest (To Page 8)

### TOP PEOPLE

... URBAN



Pictured in the Capri Hotel, Red Deer, are some members of 1967 executive of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association: (L to R), front row are: Ernest Newman, executive-secretary of Edmonton; Jack Fleming of Hinton, past president; Mrs. M. Sparling of Camrose; Mark Tennant of Calgary, president; George Repka, Grande Prairie, first vice-president, and Dennis Burt of Cardston, second vice-president.

Back row (L to R) are: H. B. Urquhart, Peace River; Frank Sherring, Lethbridge; Mayor R. E. Barrett, Red Deer; L. Wheatling, St. Albert; A. E. Velker, Rocky Mountain House; W. Bell, Coronation, and W. H. Jackson, Lacombe. (photo courtesy Red Deer Advocate)

\* \* \* \* \*

And Some

### TOP PEOPLE

... RURAL



Chief Alberta Association of M. D.'s and Counties EXECUTIVE OFFICERS for 1967: Caught by the camera in the PALLISER Hotel in CALGARY, are (L to R) Gordon Moyer of Fort Saskatchewan, immediate past president; Ralph Brown of Acme, vice-president; and Cliff Doan of Innisfail, President. (photo courtesy Calgary Herald)



THE  
SECOND  
PAGE

CANADIAN

QUOTES and PHRASES



One individual chooses Tuponia and another Hochelaga, as a suitable name for the new nationality. Now I would ask any member of this House how he would feel if he woke up some fine morning and found himself, instead of a Canadian, a Tuponian or a Hochelagander.

THOMAS D'ARCY McGEE,  
Confederation debates, Feb. 9, 1865.

LIAISON OFFICE:

This office changed hands in 1966. After nearly ten years as Liaison Officer, R.A. (Bob) Cantelon retired in mid-year.



Three issues of the COUNSELLOR have been produced since I joined the Department. Regional meetings of the Urban Municipalities Association were attended in the towns of Vermilion, Hanna, Olds and Leduc. Three annual conventions were covered: the Urban Municipalities in Red Deer, the Summer Villages in Edmonton and the Municipal Districts and Counties in Calgary. In addition, we learned something of Planning at the Alberta Planning Conference in Calgary in December.

As secretary, I have attended seven meetings of the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee, two of them special joint meetings attended by the executives of the urban and rural municipal associations.

We enter 1967, our Centennial year, with this issue of the COUNSELLOR. At this time, I wish to thank all those many persons, in local government, in the Department of Municipal Affairs and in other Departments of the Provincial Government, for their many kindnesses and generous help during my first months as an apprentice on the job.

o Lorne Hurst, Editor

The Assessors Journal

The International Association of Assessing Officers, with headquarters in Chicago, has just completed their first year of publishing a quarterly magazine called "The Assessors Journal". The publication features articles on the technical aspects of assessment administration and information on related fields which are directed at the improvement of assessment administration.

A complimentary copy may be obtained by writing the Association at 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

THIS MONTH

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We want to know if you are interested in continuing to receive The Alberta Municipal COUNSELLOR. To find out, we require your co-operation. We would ask you to return this coupon, which has your name and address imprinted on the reverse side, to

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The Alberta Municipal COUNSELLOR  
10363 - 108 Street, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

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If you know of someone who is interested in receiving The Alberta Municipal COUNSELLOR, please list his name and address here:

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED  
(From Page 1)

another new program in the year. The Branch reports give brief information on these and other interesting matters.

Altogether, 1966 was a busy year when we were again short of some necessary qualified staff, particularly in Assessment and Planning. However, our work brought rewarding results because of the splendid co-operation all staff members received at all levels of municipal administration throughout our fine province.

We are now in our national Centennial year. It is already apparent that many municipalities have provided leadership in promoting a proud and joyous spirit for the centenary through sponsoring many fine and varied projects.

To the staff of the Department, I want to express my best wishes and thanks for a job well done. For municipal people everywhere I hope 1967 will be a successful and prosperous year.

o A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister

\* \* \* \*

MUNICIPAL INSPECTION BRANCH:

On August 30th the New Towns of Grande Cache and Rainbow Lake were incorporated and two of the members of this Branch were appointed to each of the Boards of Administrators with the result that branch members now act on the Board of Administrators of seven new towns and attend board meetings of these municipalities at least once a month. Mr. Wm. Isbister has been working with Mr. Stan Ross since early in the year drafting an amalgamated municipal administration act. Because of these additional duties the staff has been unable to complete all of the annual inspections this year.

During the year and in addition to the incorporation of the New Towns of Grande Cache and Rainbow Lake, the Villages of Canmore, Carstairs, Eckville and Sedgewick changed their status to that of towns. Applications for the incorporation of the Villages of Eaglesham and the Summer Villages of Argenta Beach, Grandview and Poplar Bay have been received and if approved, will become self governing municipalities as from January 1st, 1967.

Applications received under the Winter Works Program up to December 23rd for the 1966-67 season number 464 as compared with 483 at this time last year. The total number of applications processed for the 1965-66 season was 675 as compared with 651 for the 1964-65 season and 753 for the 1963-64 season.

In co-operation with representatives of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and the Secretary-Treasurers Association, a number of successful seminars of councillors and secretary-treasurers were held at various centres throughout the Province. Matters of interest to urban municipalities were discussed in an informal manner at these meetings. Such gatherings have a considerable value to officials of municipalities as information can be obtained, and administrative problems can be discussed to the benefit of all concerned.

o Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector

\* \* \* \*

(for MORE BRANCH ACTIVITIES - page 10)

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The Alberta Municipal Councillor  
Department of Municipal Affairs  
Edmonton, Alberta

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



## Municipal District Act

5th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(v).

Jan. 1 - Taxes are deemed due on this date of the year in which they are imposed. Sec. 330.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer's security shall be renewed at the beginning of each year. Sec. 60(2).

Jan. 3 - First meeting of council to be held on this day. Sec. 39.

Jan. 10 - Secretary-treasurer shall complete the books and accounts of the previous year and make ready for audit. Sec. 61(x).

Feb. 1 - Auditors shall complete the audit on or before Feb. 1st. Sec. 68.

Council shall, as soon as practicable in each year, prepare estimate of revenues and expenditures. Sec. 331.

## Town and Village Act

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(r).

Jan. 1 - Taxes are deemed due on this date of the year in which they are imposed. Sec. 352.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer's security shall be renewed at the beginning of each year. Sec. 66.

Jan. 1 - Penalties not exceeding 6% shall be added to tax arrears if authorized by by-law. Sec. 373.

Jan. 10 - Secretary-treasurer shall complete books and accounts of the previous year and make ready for audit. Sec. 67(t).

Feb. 1 - Auditor to complete the audit on or before Feb. 1st. Sec. 76.

Council shall, as soon as practicable in each year, prepare estimate of revenues and expenditures. Sec. 353.

## Assessment Act, 1960

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare an assessment roll not later than Jan. 1st in the year following the year in which the assessment has been made. Sec. 26.

Jan. 1 - Secretary-treasurer shall mail assessment slips not later than Jan. 1st. Sec. 28.

Jan. 1 - In the case of an annual assessment, notice of preparation of the assessment roll shall be posted and published not later than Jan. 1st. Sec's. 30 and 31.

Jan. 1 - After this date appoint members to sit as a Court of Revision. Sec. 32.

Note: Assessment appeals to be received, in the case of an annual assessment within 30 days after mailing of assessment slips or, in the case of an adopted assessment, 30 days from the date of publishing notice of preparation of roll. Sec. 37.

Assessment of property which should have been assessed not later than Oct. 31 and was missed, to be assessed forthwith. Sec. 55.

## Municipalities Assistance Act

For those municipalities who submit population figures for grant calculation purposes, it is pointed out that a census if desired must be taken by Jan. 25th and the population figures must be submitted to the Minister on or before Jan. 31st. Sec. 4. o E. J. B.

## Municipal District Act

5th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting, and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 61(v).

Feb. 1 - Auditor shall prepare a Financial Statement on or before this date. Sec. 68(l).

Feb. 20 - On or before this date the secretary-treasurer shall mail a copy of the Auditor's Statement to every person whose name appears on the assessment roll. Sec. 68(g).

Feb. 20 - On each Auditor's Statement the secretary-treasurer shall have printed a notice in Form 1 in Schedule A regarding the Annual Meeting. Sec. 68(7) and 96(g).

Feb. 28 - Auditor shall send notice of arrears to ratepayers. Sec. 67(5).

Note: Council shall appoint an assessor at its first meeting after formation or as soon as practicable and council shall appoint an auditor each year at its first meeting or within two months thereafter. Sec. 64(l) and 66(l).

March 4 - Annual Meeting to be held. Sec. 96(g).

## Town and Village Act

15th - Secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting, and enter a copy in the minutes. Sec. 67(r).

Feb. 1 - Auditor shall prepare a Financial Statement on or before this date. Sec. 76(l).

Feb. 20 - Secretary-treasurer shall publish synopsis of Auditor's report. Sec. 76(5).

Feb. 27 - Ratepayers Annual Meeting to be held on this day. Sec. 125(l). Submission of reports. Sec. 126.

Feb. 28 - Auditor to send notice of arrears to ratepayers. Sec. 74(5).

Note: Appointments of assessor and auditor to be made not later than the 1st of April in each year. Sec. 71 and 73.

## Assessment Act, 1960

Feb. 1 - All assessment appeals to be received within 30 days of the mailing of assessment slips or within 30 days of posting and publishing notice of preparation of assessment roll. Sec. 30 and 37.

Court of Revision to be appointed annually and a date for the sitting of the court to be set by resolution. Sec's. 32 and 35.

Completion of duties of the Court of Revision within 150 days after January 1st. Sec. 43.

Secretary-treasurer shall certify the assessment roll complete upon closing of sittings of Court of Revision or upon the expiry of the time for complaining. Sec. 46. o E. J. B.

## THE CHANGING SCENE

### o COUNTIES

Grande Prairie . . . . . Reeve . . . . . B. Liland, Sexsmith  
Smoky Lake . . . . . Reeve . . . . . W.S. Ungeran, Wasel

### o MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Flagstaff . . . . . Reeve . . . . . A.P. Blatz, Daysland  
Stony Plain . . . . . Reeve . . . . . A.D. Slaght, Winterburn  
Westlock . . . . . Reeve . . . . . W.G. Burrows, Jarvie

### o TOWNS

Bow Island . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . V.O. Foss  
Edson . . . . . Mayor . . . . . M.D. Meade  
Gleichen . . . . . Mayor . . . . . E.G. Ferguson  
Rainbow Lake . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Miss C. Arabchuk  
Swan Hills . . . . . Mayor . . . . . T. Parkinson

### o VILLAGES

Bawlf . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Mrs. L. Bohmer  
Eggleham . . . . . Administrator . . . . . R.W. Thompson  
Rycroft . . . . . Mayor . . . . . H. Waldner  
Sunset Point (S.V.) . . . . . Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Mrs. P. Hervieux  
11441 - 125 Street, Edmonton

\*\*\*\*\*

Of the 273 urban municipalities in Alberta, 224 are members of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

Calgary has nearly 3,700 employees, says Peter Thompson, personnel co-ordinator in a recent report.

## EXECUTIVES FOR 1967

### ASSOCIATION of MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS and COUNTIES

President - C. L. Doan, Innisfail  
Vice President - R. Brown, Acme  
Directors  
- F. White, Spirit River  
- M.R. Parker, Ardrossan  
- A.E. Wigmore, Blackfalds  
- G.R. Whitehead, Claresholm

Manager J. D. Edworthy, Edmonton  
Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. M. Smith, Edmonton

### Representatives on the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee

Regular: President C. L. Doan, Innisfail  
Vice President R. Brown, Acme  
Alternate: Director M. R. Parker, Ardrossan



## PREVENTIVE SOCIAL SERVICE

o EXPLAINED BY DALE JOSLIN, PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## ... A MUNICIPAL SERVICE

### o ABOUT the AUTHOR . . .

DALE JOSLIN was born in Edmonton and attended elementary and secondary school there. He has received training at the Western Reserve University in Cleveland.



After joining the Department of Public Welfare in 1960, he served in Peace River, Medicine Hat, High Prairie and Bonnyville before assuming his present position of Program Supervisor in Edmonton.

Dale is married with four children.

THE Preventive Social Services Act became effective July 1, 1966. Mr. Dale Joslin, of the Alberta Department of Public Welfare has been giving an explanation of the new Act at Regional Meetings of the Union of Alberta Municipalities. The following transcript of his talk is published as a service to all who are interested in this new concept of preventive welfare at the local level.

### UNIQUE DEPARTURE FROM "PROBLEMS OF CONSEQUENCE"

In the way of a bit of background to our Act, I should point out that it is unique, as far as we know in North America. Other areas have legislation to cover parts of our program but ours is the only one that encompasses an entire preventive program. The Department of Public Welfare has been, by tradition, a "department of consequence". The people that we deal with have become "social casualties" before they ever reach our doors. As examples, we are currently supporting over 5000 single parent families, with over 15,000 dependents. By far the majority of cases are deserted, divorced, separated, or widowed women. The cost per month is in excess of \$500,000. In June of this year our department took into care 170 children and placed 128 with a view to adoption. This means we gained 42 children in the month of June alone. At the present time our department has in excess of 5700 children in care and the cost for maintaining these children is \$1300 per year per child. Many of the causes of family breakdown, illegitimacy, etc., are known and we feel that programs can be established under this Act to offset these occurrences.

### THREE CLASSES OF WELFARE

After consultation with various municipal groups and agencies, our department felt that in order to have a complete welfare program, three classes of welfare would be required:

- o Preventive - designed to enhance individual and family life and to prevent breakdown and dependence on public funds.
- o Rehabilitative - designed for those social casualties who have the potential to gain or regain their independence.
- o Financial - designed for those who will require continuing financial support.

### LOCAL PEOPLE MUST DIRECT PREVENTIVE WELFARE

The latter two categories, we feel, are well established within our existing programs and can be set up on a province-wide scale. The primary program, prevention, will vary from municipality to municipality and should therefore be established at that level. We feel it is most important that the preventive program involve local people and that it grow from the grass roots up. Another reason for this preventive program to be established at a local level is that it will cut across many areas such as health, education, recreation, and welfare, etc., and it cannot therefore be put in any one particular government office or department.

### A DIRECTOR OR CO-ORDINATOR TO BE HIRED FULL-TIME

The method then of establishing local preventive social services would be to first sign an agreement with our Minister and then appoint a preventive social service director or co-ordinator. This man or woman would not be involved in casework services but would survey the area to determine social problems then direct community energies toward correcting them. He could develop services, for family counselling, family-life education, head-start programs, a social worker in the school, credit counselling or youth activities, to name just a few. Many of the services which he starts would make use of the vast reserve of volunteer energy which is available in every community and would therefore cost very little to establish. (e.g. used clothing centre, family-life education series).

### PROVINCE WILL REIMBURSE 80% OF COSTS

You can see from the description of this person's job that it will be necessary for him to have skills in the administrative, public re-

lations and organizational fields. We don't feel it is absolutely necessary that this man have a university education and we feel that he is available in almost every community. The province would provide training courses, conferences, and seminars for him and consultative services will be available on an on-going basis. We are prepared to offer as much support to the appointee as he requires. The cost of approved projects which do require a cash expenditure would be reimbursed by the government at the rate of 80%. I should point out that directors' salary, administrative costs, and travel expenses would also be shared at the rate of 80%. Our preventive social service committee would not consider any project that had not received prior approval by the local municipality.

### UNITS MAY BE FORMED TO SHARE COSTS AND SERVICES

In rural areas, we feel the most reasonable method of implementation would be for the municipalities, including towns and villages, to amalgamate to share the cost and services as one unit. The unit would then select one authority to represent the amalgamated area. There would, no doubt, be an advisory board set up to deal with the applications and make recommendations to the amalgamated authority. I would also like to mention that the Department of Municipal Affairs have indicated that improvement districts will participate in this program in the same manner as counties and municipal districts.

### A NEW CONCEPT - A NEW CHALLENGE

In summary, the Province is now assuming the responsibility for child welfare protective services and rehabilitation services for the entire Province. We feel that a new component should be added to existing programs and are suggesting that municipalities undertake this new concept of public service. The Preventive Social Service Program would be designed to develop community awareness and resources, to strengthen and preserve human initiative, and to prevent family and individual breakdown. The Province would pay 80% of the costs involved in administration, project cost and travel expenses plus providing training and consultative services. Communities would be able to provide services to everyone for their physical, mental and social well-being in a program which is flexible enough to adopt to the particular requirements of each. Under this new concept, communities will be challenged with meeting needs that heretofore have been unserved.

## HELP!

### WE'VE LOST OUR ONLY PROOF

Final proof copies of two study reports entitled "Population 1 - Trends" and "Population 2 - Density" are missing! They belong to the Provincial Planning Branch in Edmonton.

The reports were last seen at the Provincial Planning Conference held in the HOLIDAY INN at Calgary on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 13th. They had formed part of the Planning Branch's displays among the conference exhibits. The reports were dismantled along with the other exhibits that afternoon and then left in Salon 'C' for return to Edmonton. Between the dismantling and subsequent collection of the exhibits, the two reports were removed by persons unknown.

Loss of the reports is a crippling blow to the Planning Branch as they were to form a vital section of an important planning study. It will therefore be appreciated if the missing reports could be returned to the Provincial Planning Branch, Department of Municipal Affairs, 10363 - 108 Street, Edmonton.

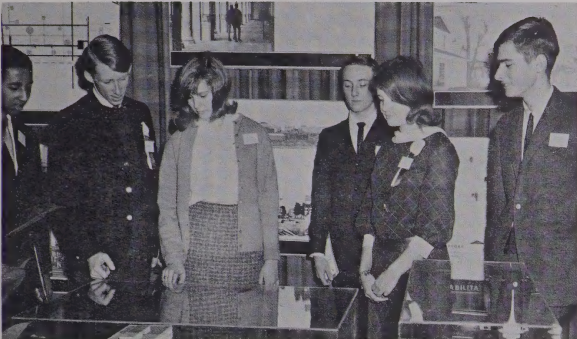
### NINE COMMUNITIES MAKE A START

- o Nine communities in Alberta have signed agreements with the Minister of Public Welfare to establish a Preventive Social Service Program. They are; Calgary, Coaldale, County of Leduc, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grimshaw, City of Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and the City of Red Deer.
- o Six directors have been appointed.



# ALBERTA PLANNING CONFERENCE

... AT CALGARY



SIX STUDENTS FROM SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN CALGARY attended the conference. Here we see the High School delegates studying one of the many exhibits. (L to R) MIKE MENGESHA, Western; GARRY SUDUL, Queen Elizabeth; CHRIS MACKIMMIE, Western; RAYMOND LEONARD, Bowness; JUNE DOKKEN, Queen Elizabeth and JOHN BRUNIUK, Bowness. Their invitation to attend was a "first" in Alberta. "They were asked to attend as delegates because we wish to start involving our youth in planning and thereby assist them in developing an understanding of some of the planning processes" said JOHN POLONUK, Senior Administrator, Provincial Planning Branch.



MARJORIE FEDECHKO (L) of Edmonton and PAT COX of Calgary, welcomed and registered delegates at a reception desk in the HOLIDAY INN. Here they record details and give information to LARRY SMITH (R) of the Oldman River Regional Planning Commission. JIM BUSSARD (Centre) a member of the Battle River Regional Planning Commission and OLIVER BELL (L) of High Prairie look on while waiting next in line.



252 DELEGATES ATTENDED. Here they listen intently to speakers on the panel dealing with "Urban Renewal and Public Housing - First Year". In other rooms at the HOLIDAY INN, the Provincial Planning Branch, the Regional Commissions and individual municipalities had many exhibits on view. These attracted a procession of delegates throughout each day because of their imaginative and effective messages.

## THEIR PLANS ARE FOR PEOPLE

The 1966 Alberta Planning Conference was held at the HOLIDAY INN in Calgary, December 12th and 13th. It was sponsored by the Planning Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs. John Polonuk, the Branch's senior administrator was the organizer.

Over 250 delegates attended. They came from rural and urban administrations, regional planning commissions, high schools, industry, planning associations, professional planning as well as engineering and architectural firms and from provincial and federal government departments.

A wealth of talent was gathered to make up the panels. In addition to professional planners, panelists included elected officials such as the Hon. A. O. Fimrite, Chairman of the Northern Development Council, Calgary Alderman D. Russell and Mayor R. Fowler of St. Albert. The Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs set the theme of "Planning for People" in his opening address.

Topics such as "Alberta - A Province Planned for People", "Urban Renewal and Public Housing - A First Year", Regional Planning and Rural Development (A.R.D.A.), "Rural Alberta - What and Where?", "Urban Alberta - How and When?", and "Regional Planning - A Co-ordinated Approach", were explored and examined by the panelists with a keen interest of the delegates.

Future issues of the COUNSELLOR will carry excerpts and, it is hoped, complete texts from some of the very topical papers presented.

It is expected another conference will be organized in a somewhat different format for late in 1967.



MAYOR JACK LESLIE extends his city's welcome to the delegates while speaking at their banquet on the first day. With the mayor at the head-table, and enjoying his joke along with the delegates, are (L to R) ANGUS MORRISON, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs; IVOR STRONG, Calgary City Commissioner; and Rabbi SHELDON EDWARDS.

### RABBI EDWARDS CALLS FOR PROVINCIAL MONEY FOR MORTGAGES

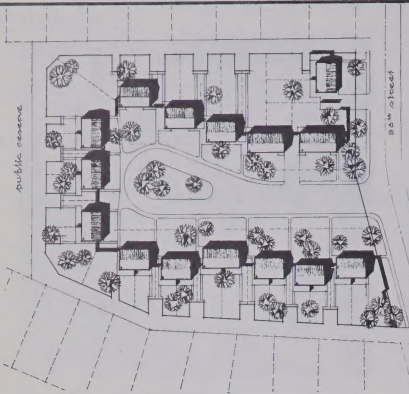
Featured as speaker for the evening, Rabbi Edwards' hilarious humour had everyone laughing most of the time he was speaking. However, through it all, he punched out a serious call for the use of provincial treasury funds to ease a low-income housing shortage caused by tight money. "The province has the money and (To Page 8)



PUBLIC HOUSING  
AND .. URBAN RENEWAL

1966

THE YEAR  
CONSTRUCTION STARTED



Alberta's first low-rental public housing project is now nearly completed in Peace River. Only some exterior work remains to be done. Ten families have moved into homes. The development is financed under the Alberta Housing Act and the National Housing Act. Capital costs, subsidy, management and operating losses or profits are shared on a partnership basis as follows: Provincial Government 15%, Federal Government 75% and the municipality 10%. It features 30 two-story, semi-detached dwellings located around a pleasant cul-de-sac in the new George subdivision. Exteriors are of wood siding and stucco, thus blending in with the surrounding privately-owned homes as they represent materials commonly used in the area.

PEACE RIVER'S MAYOR EXPLAINS

It can well be said of our society here in Alberta, that if there is a need, free enterprise will fill it, but what if free enterprise does not or cannot fill the need? This was a question facing the Council of the Town of Peace River where there was already an acute housing shortage, and where also, there was around the periphery of town numerous substandard dwellings the occupants of which would be displaced by the new highway bridge or by the approach roads.

A survey of all houses was made and it was found that 152 housing units were needed to fill the needs of the lower income group many of whom were of metis or Indian origin, and for whom no provision for rental accommodation was being made.

The plight of these people was brought to the attention of the Northern Development Council and local M. L. A.'s.

With the passing of the Alberta Housing Act, Council was quick in going through the necessary procedures to ask the Federal and Pro-

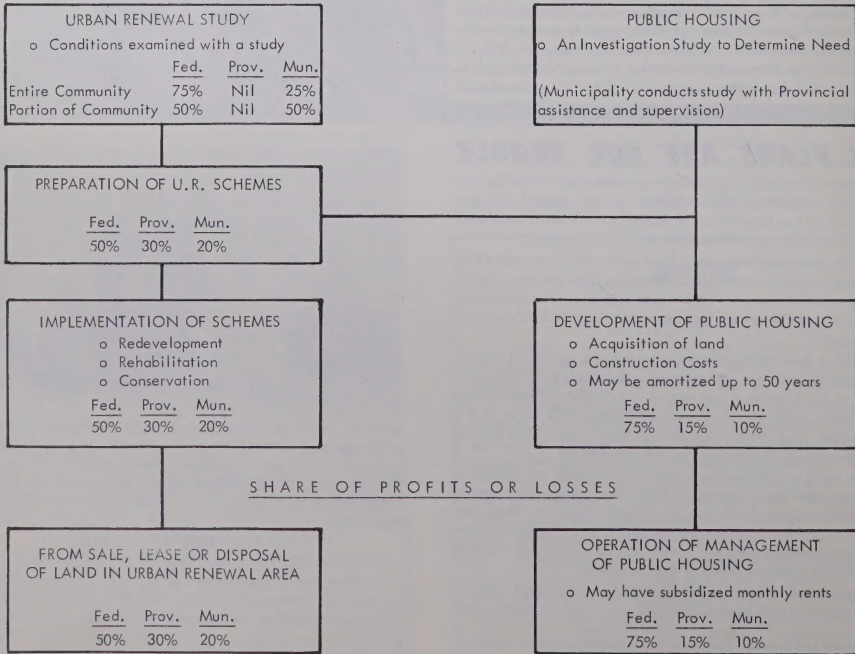
vincial Governments to enter into partnership to provide a decent standard of housing accommodation for persons of the lower income groups whose financial status was such, that they were unable to avail themselves of the type of accommodation provided by private enterprise.

The two senior governments approved the scheme and Phase 1 consisting of 8 four bedroom and 22 three bedroom units is now nearing completion. A Housing Committee charged with the responsibility of administering the project and the selection of tenants has been appointed.

This being the first project of its kind in Alberta, it is bound to have teething troubles. These troubles will be resolved by the Committee as they arise. Similarly, there are bound to be problems created by some tenants due to their change of environment. In this regard, local church and ladies groups can give considerable help with the rehabilitation of these families so that problems arising will be kept to a minimum.

o E. R. Whitmey

WHO PAYS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL?





DAVID R. LINES opens the door for his wife to enter the three-bedroom home his family will occupy in Alberta's first Public Housing project at Peace River. The Lines family were the first tenants.

In a ceremony held earlier at the site on September 28, 1966, Mr. and Mrs. Lines were presented with a ceremonial key to the project on behalf of all future tenants. (Record-Gazette photo)



ALL THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT participated in the ceremonial planting of a mountain ash tree in the front yard of one of the 30 units in the Peace River Public Housing project. (L to R) Mayor E.R. Whitmey; Hon. J.R. Nicholson, federal minister of Labor; and Angus Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs. The senior government paid 75 per cent of the \$497,600 cost, the province 15 per cent and Town of Peace River the balance. This Peace River project involves 22 three-bedroom units and eight four-bedroom units. Each has a full basement and is equipped with a stove and refrigerator.

Mrs. Margaret Jegard, of Peace River, is chairman of the housing Authority administering the project. Mr. Morrison said the rental cost of the units is \$123 monthly and the average rent to be paid by the tenants will be \$60. The three governments will employ the same 75-15-10 ratio to absorb the difference in rental values. (Record-Gazette photo)

## WHAT IS PUBLIC HOUSING?

Public Housing is intended to provide housing accommodation for low-income families and individuals who cannot, because of their income, obtain adequate accommodation for their needs at the current market rate in the area in which they live. Developments may consist of self-contained units for family occupancy, or hostel or dormitory accommodation for individuals.

## WHAT IS URBAN RENEWAL?

Generally speaking, urban renewal is an inclusive term which is used to describe the process of renewing blighted areas of the municipality and to improve working and living conditions. It involves redevelopment, rehabilitation and conservation, used separately or in combination in designated areas. Redevelopment is a program of acquisition and clearance of blighted or substandard (To Page 12)

### SCORE BOARD

ALBERTA PUBLIC HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL (1966)

	KIND OF PROJECT	MUNICIPALITIES	APPLI- CATIONS	TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS
PUBLIC HOUSING	Approval given to <u>proceed with investigation study</u> .	Slave Lake, Fort MacLeod, Hythe, Manning, Valleyview, High Prairie, Beaverlodge, Taber, Girouxville, Grande Prairie, Calgary	11	
	Projects approved but <u>not under construction</u> .	Drumheller (26 units)      Slave Lake (20 units)	2	-
	Projects approved and <u>construction now underway</u> .	Peace River (30 units)      Fort McMurray (42 units) \$497,600      \$721,700	2	\$1,219,300
URBAN RENEWAL	Approval given to <u>examine conditions with a study</u> .	Edmonton, Lethbridge, Wainwright, Hinton, St. Albert, Leduc, Cardston, Drumheller and I. D. 42, Peace River, High River, Grande Prairie	11	-
	Approval given to proceed with <u>preparation of Scheme</u> .	Edmonton (5 Schemes)      Calgary      Medicine Hat      High River (1 Scheme) \$58,333      \$30,000      \$7,700      \$6,954	10	\$ 102,987
	Approval given to proceed with <u>implementation of Scheme</u> .	Calgary \$6,610,850	1	\$6,610,850
TOTALS (estimated)			37	\$7,933,137



## URBAN RENEWAL IN ALBERTA . . .

**CALGARY STARTS FIRST SCHEME**

Calgary is implementing Alberta's first urban renewal project. The renewed area will be called Churchill Park.

The first phase of the program is located on 38 acres of downtown Calgary. It encompasses eight city blocks, including those on which City Hall, the Administration Building, the Police Station and the Public Library now stand. The majority of the lands will be acquired, cleared and re-used for a civic center complex, accommodating administration buildings for both Public and Separate School Boards, a public housing project and other civic, institutional and commercial installations. The City also intends to re-furbish existing municipal services within the area, reallocating lands for open space, parking facilities and some street widening.

The more than 475 area residents will receive Civic Assistance to find suitable alternate accommodation in public and private dwellings. All property within the eight-block district will be cleared with exception of the municipal buildings and two churches.

The Churchill Park scheme envisions ultimate expenditures of \$24.5 million in an 128-acre renewal area of Calgary. In addition to getting Alberta's first renewal project underway, the City of Calgary is also the first municipality to make use of 1965 Provincial legislation offering up to 30 percent of urban renewal implementation costs, the highest percentage of such help offered by any province in Canada.

Another first for the project, was the first use in Canada of special National Housing Act loan assistance, enabling the City of Calgary to borrow two-thirds of its own costs in the scheme for the federal government. Under Section 23c of the Act, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with Governor in Council approval, offers loans to provinces and municipalities to assist in underwriting their share of project costs. The loans, secured by provincial or municipal debentures, may be up to two-thirds of the actual expense established by the Corporation after deducting all Federal grants and contributions for implementation of urban renewal schemes.

Estimated cost of the initial phase is \$6.6 million. Approximately \$2 million will be contributed by the Provincial government as its share of the cost. Federal contributions of over three million dollars have been approved, together with an additional \$730,000 Federal loan on the City's portion of the expense. ●

**TWO MEETINGS EXAMINE**

(From Page 1)

a compromise provision, - to provide for a local option.

**Municipal Appeal Tribunal**

On the subject of the Municipal Appeal Tribunal, Mr. Ross explained to the convention that an appeal could not be taken to the Tribunal until after an appeal to the municipal council had been unsuccessful. Any application to the Tribunal would then need to be supported by copies of the written complaint that had been given before council together with a written copy of the council's decision. "This would ensure that a municipal council could not be by-passed or its argument overlooked when the Tribunal may be considering the validity of an application for appeal", said Mr. Ross.

In answer to another question, Mr. Ross said there would be a right of appeal to the courts on all decisions of the Tribunal.

The convention decided to refer the Appeal Tribunal matter to Mr. Alan Brownlee, Q.C., their solicitor, for further study and a report before making a decision one way or another. Mr. Brownlee said he would need to see the Appeal Tribunal provisions as they finally appear in the new Act before he could properly form an opinion on many of the implications.

**A Safeguard on Dissolution**

Another resolution asked that a section in the new Act be designed to relieve or safeguard a rural municipality from having to assume undue financial obligations existing in a municipality when it has to be ordered dissolved and its assets absorbed by the rural municipality.

**Other Recommendations Approved**

Delegates voted approval on all the other recommendations of Messrs. Ross and Isbister for consolidating the Municipal Acts.

**Joint Meeting of PMAC and Municipal Association Executives**

On the following day, January 13, the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee met in joint session with the executives of both the urban and rural associations. The joint meeting is now a tradition at this time. Its purpose is to discuss the resolutions that both municipal associations have presented to the Executive Council from their annual Conventions. This year, however, considerable time was

**AAMD MEETS FOR 58TH TIME**

. . . CLIFF DOAN 12th PRESIDENT

Delegates representing the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties held their 58th Annual Convention in the Palliser at Calgary November 15 - 18, 1966.

Official delegates attending the four-day conference numbered 264, representing all 27 counties and the 21 municipal districts in the province. There were 315 visitors including 176 ladies. Total registration was 579.



CLIFFORD L. DOAN

Roger Parker of Ardrossan and Fred White of Spirit River continue to represent divisions three and four respectively.

The executive report was given by Gordon Mayer, President for 1965-66. He described the disposition of the 1965 resolutions (To next page)

taken at the meeting for discussion of the contentious points in the proposals for consolidating the municipal Acts.

With the Hon. A. J. Hooke as chairman, other members of the PMAC present for the meeting were: Cliff Doan of Innisfail and Ralph Brown of Acme for the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties and Frank Sherring of Lethbridge and James Clark of Fort Saskatchewan for the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association. Director Roger Parker of the rural association and President Mark Tennant of the urban association, headed-up the executive groups attending.

**Resolutions Discussed**

The Associations discussed their convention resolutions dealing with revising the municipal Acts. They dealt at length with every contentious aspect of the proposed revisions by asking the PMAC and Mr. Stan Ross for explanations in considerable detail.

**Timetable Proposed for New Act**

Mr. Hooke explained his wish to have the proposed Act dealt with as follows:

- Introduce it as a bill into the Legislature for first reading soon after the session starts on February 9. (It would then be a printed public document available for distribution and study)
- Second reading in the Legislature can follow some time later after the speech from the throne and the budget are out of the way. (This timing would allow widespread study before it arrives for second reading)
- Study by the Legislature's Agricultural Committee. On second reading the Bill could be referred to this committee so that briefs may be heard from interested organizations and individuals. This committee may recommend changes here and there; they may want sections withheld or new sections added.
- Clause by clause study by the Committee of the whole legislature would follow sometime after the Agricultural Committee completed its work and if the bill had passed a second reading.
- Next, the Bill could be held over for another year, or, passed with a third reading.
- If the Act passes a third reading, it would not be proclaimed or put into effect until after January 1, 1968, at the earliest.

**Agreement on Procedure**

The PMAC meeting concluded with agreement that this procedure and timetable could provide time for the necessary study and reconsideration of each section before it may become effective in 1968.

**City Councils Visited**

Earlier, in November and December, Mr. Stanley Ross, Q.C. and William Isbister travelled out of Edmonton to explain their proposals when invited by local councils. They visited city councils as follows: Calgary - November 22, Red Deer - November 28, Grande Prairie - December 5, Wetaskiwin and Camrose (jointly) December 7, Lethbridge - December 14, Medicine Hat - December 15 and Edmonton - December 20.

o L. L. H.



AAMD CONVENTION

(From Page 8)

and told of the conventions and other meetings attended by him or members of his executive.

Other speakers during the four-day convention included Alan Brownlee Q.C., Solicitor for the Association; Dr. E.E. Ballantyne, Mr. D.W. Rogers, Deputy Minister of Public Welfare; Mr. K.A. Pugh, Deputy Minister of Labour; Mr. J.M. (Mickey) McKay of the Alberta Crop and Hail Insurance Boards and Mr. Gunnar Wahlstrom, President, Alberta School Trustees Association.

Office Building - A Centennial Project

An office building for the Association was approved for construction at Edmonton as a Centennial project. The expected cost of about \$200,000.00 is to be shared by the member municipalities on an equalized assessment basis.

Revising the Municipal Acts

Revision of the municipal Acts into one statute was the major topic of the Hon. A. J. Hooke when he gave the opening address and delivered greetings from the Government of Alberta on Tuesday morning.

Mr. Hooke said that in 1963 the Union of Alberta Municipalities, by resolution, had asked for a review of The City Act. Last year the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee had recommended the setting up of a special committee to study the entire field of municipal legislation. A two-man Committee was then appointed in early summer of this year and it has now made some recommendations to the Executive Council. The Committee consists of one man from outside the Department of Municipal Affairs, Mr. Stanley Ross Q.C. of Edmonton, and one experienced man from within the Department, Mr. William Isbister, Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector. Mr. Hooke introduced Mr. Ross and Mr. Isbister to the convention. Since their appointment, he said, the Committee had worked long hours in reviewing the wide field of municipal legislation. It had also met with the PMAC, the Public Utilities Board, the Local Authorities Board, the Inspection Branch, the Cabinet, and now it was scheduling meetings with interested municipal governments, the press, television and radio.

Since he had taken the Municipal portfolio, he had "removed 52 references to the Department in the Municipal Acts", Mr. Hooke said. He cited an example; the appointment of a secretary-treasurer formerly had to be referred to the Minister for approval. He explained that this requirement was among those removed because it was considered to be a matter for the municipality to decide.

Over 20 Acts Now

As there were now so many Acts - well over 20 - governing the various fields of municipal affairs, he was receiving numerous requests every year for changes in legislation. Requirements for amendments in other ministries, e.g., Agriculture, Public Works, Forestry, etc., were very few compared with Municipal Affairs.

The urban municipalities were the more frequent petitioners for change. Cities had asked for numerous new powers in The City Act. The power to control the sale of fire crackers is an example of one of their requests last year.

Wide Authority and an Appeal Board

"A consolidation will be reducing existing legislation from approximately 2000 clauses in about 10 Acts to somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10 in one Act", Mr. Hooke told the Convention.

"So the Committee is proposing that the new Act should give the widest possible authority to municipalities with an Appeal Board to protect the individual's rights", Mr. Hooke went on to say. He gave some examples of other procedures used to check on or curb the actions of government; e.g., Public Utility Commissions, the Provincial Auditor, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Governor-General in Council. "Lieutenant-governors have denied assent five times in recent years and the Governor-General-in-Council has disallowed provincial legislation on nine occasions during the time I've held office", Mr. Hooke said. Those procedures have not been abused, he suggested.

Recommendations Not Yet Accepted

The Minister of Municipal Affairs emphasized that although the Committee's recommendations have been made public, - they are not final, - and they have not yet been accepted by the government to be recommended as policy to the legislature.

Delegates asked for copies of the Committee's recommendations so they could be studied. Copies were not available in the morning but they were provided later in the afternoon.

Convention in January - at Edmonton

Delegates then considered and defeated a motion that would have called upon the government to defer the proposed consolidation so that the details may have another year of study. Instead, they passed an extra-ordinary resolution that said they needed to go home

and study the proposals item by item for at least six weeks, and then they would be prepared to convene again early in January, - this time in Edmonton, - to express more informed opinion, item by item. It was also their hope that the Committee may have more exact wording for some proposed sections of the Act ready for them to see at that time. (See the October-November issue of the COUNSELLOR for the Committee's recommendations. a Ed).

Five-Year Budgets Suggested

Long-range fiscal planning was urged on delegates Thursday. Mayor Jack Leslie of Calgary made the call when featured speaker at the banquet that evening.

Mayor Leslie explained that Calgary now has drawn up a five-year capital works plan. It helps the city administration establish priorities when faced with many demands for expenditures. It relates to the city's master plan and also makes provisions for capital works projects not in that plan. A long-range budget establishes priorities so the city can take steps to finance each project and know where it is going. "With priorities established, we see what we are facing and the public is helped with information on what is planned and when it is scheduled for construction", the mayor said. He explained this gives the public an opportunity to generate constructive criticism and to give knowledgeable support to the administration.

One difficulty, however, is changing policies among the senior governments. Provincial and federal grants as well as loan policies vary from year to year.

Mayor Leslie concluded by saying the five-year budget should be flexible. It should be the guideline and it should be upgraded each year to meet the demands of that particular year.

Roads - New Secondary Grid System

Chief Engineer Vic McCune, of the Department of Highways, gave the first address Thursday morning. He told of plans under study to start a 20-year joint road building program with municipalities. Starting in 1967, 500 miles of secondary roads will be built each year in rural Alberta at cost estimates ranging from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per mile.

All existing road building grants will be discontinued. They were \$8 million in 1966. Under the plan, new grants will amount to \$12 million in 1967 and increase to \$20 million in 1968 and thereafter. "Emphasis will be on building shorter distances of roads each year and finishing them to a high standard with paving", Mr. McCune said. Only quality paving, likely costing around \$30 thousand per mile, will be approved.

Although constructed jointly by the two levels of government, the roads will be returned to municipal jurisdiction for all maintenance when completed.

Thirty-Five Resolutions

Thirty-five resolutions were presented. Seven were later withdrawn, - some of them because of prospects that upcoming legislation will meet the need.

Three resolutions were lost when put to the vote. Two would have increased gross vehicle weight and speed limits on rural roads. Another would have allowed assessment of both the farm residence and the total parcels of land comprising the farm unit, with a tax to be paid on whichever was the larger assessment, the farm residence or the farm land. This latter resolution lost by a narrow margin.

Now Four Districts and Four Directors

A change in the number of districts from three to four with a corresponding increase in directors was one of the first constitutional changes adopted by resolution. Membership fees were increased to \$30 for each million dollars of equalized assessment. The fiscal year was changed to end July 31st. Excise and sales taxes as well as control of weeds on Indian reserves were the subjects of resolutions to be addressed to the Federal government through the Western Association of Municipalities.

Access road intersections, qualified but uncertified teachers, road grants, pipe line rights-of-way, assessment on oil rigs, homeowners tax discount, duck damage to crops, times of polling in provincial and municipal elections, the price of propane and the removal of assessment on fallout shelters were some of the subjects covered in other resolutions.

Lively interest was demonstrated in resolutions concerning revision of the municipal Acts, removal of sales and excise taxes, assessment of residences in rural areas and the need for oil companies to work with municipalities in planning access roads in unsettled or undeveloped areas. The remaining resolutions were handled with little debate and only a few amendments.

Ladies Were Entertained

Each day saw entertainment for the ladies with wives of the executive acting as conveners. Fashions and children's talent were featured items.

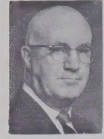


BRANCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

(From Page 2)

FIELD SERVICE BRANCH:

The work of re-assessing the Province's improvement districts continued in 1966. General assessments were completed in Improvement Districts 42, 68 and 109. A start has been made on general assessments in Improvement Districts 132, 134 and 11. It is also possible that 124 or 126 will be commenced in 1967.



The assessment section, excluding the industrial group numbered 15 at the beginning of the season, but has been reduced to 13, because of transfers to other positions. It is proposed to add substantially to this number in 1967, as new assessments are badly needed in a number of Improvement Districts.

Activity under the Farm Purchase Credit Act increased considerably. This was mainly due to the change in the legislation that gave the vendor a total cash deal for his property.

Annual ratepayers' meetings were held early in 1966 in all those districts having Advisory Committees, and were well attended. These Committees appear to be operating satisfactorily from the ratepayer point of view.

The Recreational Facilities Grant Extension programs' initial stages are completed, as are also those of the Municipal Parks Grant and Centennial Programs. There are still "tag ends" that require attention though and so the disbursement of the monies will carry on for quite some time in the future.

Industrial development in Improvement Districts continues to expand, and it will be necessary to add one more assessor to this section in 1967.

The licensing function of the Branch continues on at about the same pace as in the previous year.

Development Control is in effect in nearly all of the improvement districts and has brought with it a number of problems.

Two new inspectorates have been created, with offices at High Level and Valleyview.

It is anticipated that three new Agricultural Service Boards will be established in 1967, covering the Valleyview, Keg River and Fort Vermilion areas.

The usual Branch business of annual assessments, hamlet services, etc., was voluminous. The field staff continued to serve on Health Units, Planning Commissions, Agricultural Service Boards, Rural Road Study groups, etc. We anticipate the forthcoming year will be equally as busy.

o A. R. Isbister, Director of Field Service

ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD:

During the year 1966 the Alberta Assessment Equalization Board continued in its role of establishing equalized assessments in respect to all municipalities in the Province. The Board also continued the function of apportioning the equalized assessment of each municipality amongst the several School Districts and Divisions and Hospital Districts to which the municipality concerned might be required to provide such information.



Equalized assessments, as determined by this Board, represent the total assessment and valuation of a municipality adjusted to a degree required to reflect assessments and valuations of that municipality on a common basis with those of all other municipalities in the Province.

It may be of interest to note that the total cost of education in the elementary and secondary level has been calculated in an amount of \$190,600,000.00 for 1966 with the breakdown of contribution as set out below:

Provincial Contribution . . . . .	\$ 97,000,000.00
Other Provincial Grants . . . . .	\$ 3,400,000.00
Other Revenue, Tuitions, etc., . . . .	\$ 5,800,000.00
Contribution by municipalities at 26 mills on the basis of their equalized assessments . . . . .	\$ 68,000,000.00
Supplemental Requisitions . . . . .	\$ 16,400,000.00
Total . . . . .	\$ 190,600,000.00

It continues to be the objective of the Board to improve the procedures employed in the equalization of assessments in order to ensure the greatest amount of equity throughout all municipalities in the Province.

o R. L. Cross, Secretary-Member

ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONER:

During the past year the inspection staff of this branch completed inspections of general assessments in 5 cities, 20 towns, 32 villages and of the improvements in 12 rural municipalities. Individual inspections were carried out at the request of the Assessment Appeal Board, the Companies Branch of the Provincial Secretary and for individual owners or municipalities as the circumstances demanded.



The crop yield study was continued with the co-operation of approximately 400 farmers and it was up-dated on the basis of current information as supplied.

Preliminary copies of the Residential and Unit Cost Sections of the proposed 1967 Assessment Manual have been issued to assessors for field testing only. A substantial part of the Commercial Section of this preliminary Manual will be made available shortly.

The Advisory Committee on the Assessment of Oilfield Equipment has completed rate schedules which will soon be recommended for assessment purposes.

As requested, we continued to provide material assistance to the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee as a way of helping in the continuing effort to provide solutions to assessment and taxation problems.

Legislative amendments, interpretations and other assistance rendered to all interested parties, helped make 1966 an especially interesting year for all.

o J. B. Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD:

Community pastures were again used to capacity. Power was installed at two Riders' Camps and twelve miles of new fence built. There are now 265 miles of 4-wire fence in the five pastures. For the second consecutive year a surplus over grass rental and operating expenses was achieved.



The water supply was good in 1966 and conditions are favorable for a good spring run off. Blood Indian Dam completed in 1965 by P.F.R.A. with 4000 acre feet of storage nearly filled in the spring of 1966. The depth of water at the face is approximately 50 feet. This provides an excellent source of stock water for ranchers living below the dam. It should develop into an excellent recreation area, as the Fish and Game Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests have stocked it with Rainbow Trout. Ducks Unlimited completed 13 dams in 1966 increasing the total number of projects in Special Areas to 153.

Purchase of new equipment has increased our fleet of patrols to 36 including 13 units equipped with snowplows. Six new trucks were purchased. We constructed some 232 miles of new roads this year and gravelled 173 miles. The Secondary Road Study is all but complete and should be presented to the Department of Highways by the end of the year.

The Farm Purchase Board Advisory Committees within the two Special Areas recommended loans in excess of \$218,000.00 and dealt with fifteen applications.

o C. W. Edwards, Chairman

ALBERTA ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD:

Without having benefit of the year end total of appeals heard, it is nevertheless safe to say that at the date of publication of this review, the Board will have experienced its busiest year in the history of our province. This is, of course, the result of so many municipalities having completed general assessments effective for taxation for the year 1966, together with the fact that people are becoming more and more conscious of every tax increase they are asked to bear.

What the year 1967 has in store for mankind is not too clear but in realization of the large number of new general assessments being wound up at this date, the Board will predict that it must face an even busier year in 1967 than that experienced in 1966.

On behalf of the members and staff of the Assessment Appeal Board, I again wish to thank those persons engaged in municipal work throughout the province, who during the past year have contributed so greatly in making the very arduous task of the Appeal Board, just a little less difficult.



o K. A. Luke, Chairman



**ASSESSMENT BRANCH:**

Demand for assessment services was at an all time high throughout Alberta in the year 1966. Approximately 209 annual assessments and 44 general assessments in towns and villages were carried out by branch personnel. Outside the Province of Alberta assessments were carried out in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the City of Whitehorse, the Town of Hay River and the Town of Yellowknife.

Branch personnel have increased their activities in the rural field. They have completed four general assessments in the County of Warner, County of Mountainview, M.D. of Pincher Creek and the M.D. of Westlock. They are also in the process of making general assessments in the County of Two Hills, County of Vermilion River, M.D. of Foothills, M.D. of Lamont and the County of Wheatland. Twelve annual assessments were made by the Branch in 1966 in Counties and Municipal Districts. Our Grande Prairie office is commencing a general assessment in I.D. 132.

Because of the increased demand for assessors, the Branch hired 18 additional employees to its staff. The greater majority of the new employees have been placed on rural assessments.

The increased demand for assessors has also caused a corresponding increase in the individual work load for each assessor and so many of them were unable to complete their assignments before the October 31st deadline. As a consequence, several municipalities found it necessary to ask for extensions of time to complete their assessments.

Departmental personnel were again active in the cities. They assisted in the completion of the general assessment in the City of Wetaskiwin and made an annual assessment in the City of Drumheller. **Power and Pipeline Section**

The total assessment - valuation prepared for municipalities by the Chief Provincial Assessor for the 1966 tax year is just over \$194,000,000. This figure does not include municipally owned utility systems valued by the local assessors. Prospects are that this figure will be increased substantially for the coming year. While new well spacing programs have reduced the number of oil wells in operation in some of the older oil fields, this loss of assessment will probably be offset by new drilling, particularly in the northern part of the province. Several new oil and gas transmission lines are currently under construction and the electric power utilities are extending their areas of service and increasing their generating capacity. Some of these increases will be assessable for the coming year, but others will be two or three years under construction.

Demands for assessment services in 1967 are expected to exceed those of 1966.

o D. E. Mills, Chief Provincial Assessor

**ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

As predicted, 1966 was a year of progress. Thanks to the Northern Development Council, we were able to undertake the first stages of water development at Fort Chipewyan and Fort Vermilion. In addition to funds provided by the Northern Development Council, funds are being provided from each of the Improvement Districts and from Federal Government departments and business interests in each hamlet.

Drainage projects have also been undertaken in Improvement Districts 131, 132, 134, 138 and 139. They are financed jointly by the Northern Development Council, Water Resources and the Improvement Districts.

Tax collections in most Improvement Districts and in Special Areas were good. The northern districts, of course, suffered once again due to unfavourable weather conditions. Tax notices were mailed late in June and this new procedure appears to have been well accepted by the taxpayers.

Every year seems to bring forth some new problem. In 1966 our problems were in connection with the Homeowners Tax Discount. After many meetings with representatives of the various municipalities and with the Data Processing Centre we feel that many of our difficulties were adequately overcome. It is anticipated that the problems could be kept to a minimum with a change in legislation if the Government decides to once again carry on with this program.

To date an amount of \$9,086,178.90 has been paid out in connection with the Homeowners Tax Discount. This money represented 183,371 applications.

o D. R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant

Many a man in love with a dimple makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl.  
Stephen Leacock

**PLANNING BRANCH:**

Much of the Branch's time in 1966 has been spent by the general planning section in working out solutions for a variety of development problems, particularly in the northern half of the Province. This work has included investigations into new town locations, reports and the preparation of preliminary plans for such towns. The work has also seen the completion of subdivision designs for Fort McMurray, High Level, Fort Chipewyan, Wandering River, Slave Lake, Smith and other locations.

In other parts of the Province, the Branch has continued to process an increasing number of subdivision plans, zoning and development control by-laws and the Provincial Planning Board has heard an increasing number of development and subdivision appeals.

Work on general plans includes those at Whitecourt, Barrhead and Redwater.

The Public Housing and Urban Renewal Section established in January of this year, has been involved in the processing of four public housing projects, two of which are now in the final stages of construction at Peace River and Fort McMurray. Guidance has been given to a number of other municipalities in carrying out investigations of the need for public housing. In the field of urban renewal, assistance has been given to a number of municipalities proceeding with studies, and five other municipalities have received assistance in the preparation of urban renewal schemes.

A research section of the Branch was established in the latter part of the year, and although only manned by a team of two personnel at this time, has already prepared our first research publications and other research material in the short time it has been active.

A highlight of the year was the Annual Alberta Planning Conference, held in Calgary in December. Many hours of the staff's time was spent on the organization of and the preparation of material for the Conference.

I foresee a continued increase in all Branch activities in 1967, as the rate of all kinds of development accelerates in the Province.

o Noel Dant, Provincial Planning Director

**PERSONNEL OFFICE:**

The year 1966 has brought many changes in personnel administration within the Department and in regional offices across the Province. The modernizing of personnel regulations and procedures to meet the needs of Municipal Affairs, the completion of a detailed classification survey involving over 200 staff positions, and the streamlining of various segments of the organization are but a few of the projects that have been completed. Regular personnel activities concerning recruitment and placement of new staff, coding and processing of employee transactions, have doubled in volume during the same period.



The conditions of government employment were improved notably in the course of the year with extensive amendments to the Public Service Pension Act and by the implementation of a General Pay Review in October. Collective negotiations between the Government of Alberta and the Civil Service Association also resulted in additional fringe benefits in the areas of vacation and sick leave entitlements, and in the 50% subsidization of Medical Services premiums.

All in all, greater efficiency in serving the interests of Alberta's citizens is the keynote for the future of government and employee relations; its achievement will be assured by the continued cooperation and teamwork of every member of the Department.

o R. D. Fraser, Personnel Officer

**TAX RECOVERY BRANCH:**

The public demand for Tax Recovery land is still strong and we have been able to sell practically all parcels that we place up for sale. The sales generally are for cash.

Tax collections were very good throughout the Province.

In the Special Areas Division, collection of crop shares, rentals and taxes, both arrears and current, have been exceptional. The demand for Rights of Entry and Agreements for pipeline Right-of-Way remained steady.

In our view, 1967 will bring to Albertans another busy and prosperous year and at this moment we cannot think of any reason why one should not be optimistic.

o K. C. Switzer, Director of Tax Recovery





## MEET THE COMMITTEE



STAN ROSS Q.C. (left) and WILLIAM ISBISTER, Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector, (right) are the two members of the Committee engaged in drafting and recommending a consolidation of the various municipal Acts. They were discussing an item of their work when our cameraman interrupted them for this photo in Edmonton recently.

### STAN ROSS Q.C.

William Stanley Ross, 61, is a barrister of long standing in his native Alberta. Born in Cardston, he attended school in Lethbridge and the University of Alberta in Edmonton, completing his law degree in 1927.

Professionally an expert in the law of labour-management relations, Mr. Ross is also well known as a contributor to news and public affairs programs in the press and on the radio. He was correspondent in Edmonton for the British United Press from 1935 until they opened a full-time office in 1945. During World War II, Stanley Ross's reports over the C.B.C. became a familiar link with home for thousands of our servicemen overseas.

Mr. Ross is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Scandinavian Organizations and doubles as Vice Consul for Finland. He is married with a son and a daughter.

### WILLIAM ISBISTER

William D. Isbister, 46, is the Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Most of Bill Isbister's early years were spent near Gadsby, Alberta after arriving there at the age of two from his birthplace in Saskatchewan. He served four years in the Canadian Army during World War II. A member of the Calgary Regiment (Tank) he participated in the raid on Dieppe in August, 1942 and thereafter spent thirty-two months as a prisoner-of-war.

In 1946, Mr. Isbister joined the field service branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs. His 20 years of municipal service includes municipal administrative experience as an Administrator for several of the New Towns, municipal inspection work and administration of the joint federal-provincial-municipal Winter Works Program for the province during the last nine years.

Community activities, reading and home carpentry are listed among his hobbies. Bill is married with four children, one girl and three boys.

### ALBERTA PLANNING CONFERENCE

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the means of lending through the treasury branches," he said. The money could be invested in secured first mortgages. This would encourage greater private enterprise development of apartments and single family housing for the low-income family, was his claim. The rabbi also called for an apartment rental tax to ease the burden on home owners.

### ANIMATED FILM SHOW EXPLAINED CALGARY'S URBAN RENEWAL

As delegates registered, they were treated to a two-hour show of films and slides monitored by members of the Calgary Planning Department. The show depicted, - oftentimes in a playful, bantering manner, - the reasons, the ways, the problems, the objectives and the results of urban renewal and planning in their foothill city. It was instructional and entertaining.

### URBAN RENEWAL

(From Page 7)

areas and the rebuilding of those areas for appropriate uses in accordance with a General Plan. Rehabilitation, on the other hand, is a program applicable to deteriorating areas not yet in need of complete redevelopment. It combines action by public investment and individual owners to improve and repair their properties, together with municipal action to improve community facilities. Conservation is, in essence, a program of action by the municipality to prevent deterioration of sound areas of the municipality by the enforcement of occupancy, maintenance and zoning by-laws.

The type of approach a municipality takes is interdependent on the degree of blight in that municipality. Blight can be defined as a collective term used to express the substandard nature of an urban area and varies from one municipality to another, depending on the particular standards applicable to that municipality.

Gull Lake is the translation of the Indian name "Kiaskus"

## FIELD OFFICE ASSISTANTS CONFER IN EDMONTON



FIELD OFFICE ASSISTANTS from departmental offices in 14 Alberta centres are pictured with senior departmental officials in Edmonton on November 23rd. FRONT ROW: (L to R) Phyllis Schmalzbauer, Peace River; Mrs. Constance Petrie, Calgary; Eric Rymer, Assistant Director of Field Service; Hon. A. J. Hooke, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Angus Morrison, Deputy Minister; Al Isbister, Director of Field Service; Mrs. Florence Browne, Edson and Miss Lucille Fricker, Edmonton. SECOND ROW: (L to R) Mrs. Joyce Nelson, Edmonton; Mrs. Hazel Harvie, Assessment Branch, Lethbridge; Miss Maxine Young, Lac La Biche; Miss Jessie Kent, Medicine Hat; Mrs. Mary Calvin, Drumheller; Mrs. Joyce McRae, Rocky Mountain House; Mrs. Marie Belli, High Prairie; Mrs. F. M. Bougie, Bonnyville; Miss Sharon Schmidt, Westlock; Mrs. Evelyn Fjallman, Assessment Branch, Red Deer and Mrs. C. Lundrigan of Evansburg.


The ladies were in Edmonton for a two-day conference, convened especially for the benefit of Field Office Assistants. The last event of this kind was in 1959. Their sessions were held in the Board Room of the Municipal Affairs Building.

In company with the female staff from the Branch, the girls were greeted on Wednesday morning by the Hon. A. J. Hooke, and Deputy Minister Angus Morrison; also by Al Isbister, Director of the Field Service Branch and Eric Rymer, his assistant. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the girls' work in the outer offices and the strategic positions in which they are situated, having close daily contact with the public.

Most of the two days were taken up with sessions of instruction and discussion conducted by the heads of the various branches of the Department. Assessment instruction was led by Mr. Rymer, Miss L. Fricker and Mrs. J. Nelson. Tax Recovery procedure was explained by Mr. K. Switzer and Mr. J. Sloan. Mr. D. Watson and Mr. W. Kinsman gave much needed instruction on the Home Owners' Discount, Accounting, Remitting of Cash and the handling of Trust Accounts. In the same vein, Mr. R. D. Fraser dealt with personnel matters and Mr. J. Thompson advised and answered queries regarding Equipment Licensing procedures.

An excellent opportunity was afforded all the staff to get acquainted during coffee breaks and lunches, and at a banquet Wednesday evening in the Dining Room of the Greenbrier Hotel. Judging by the lively discussion and the questions that were dealt with, it can be assured that there was a keen interest in the sessions. It is now expected that such sessions will be held possibly every two or three years. It is hoped the girls returned to their offices with a feeling that they are a vital part of a large organization.





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